

“HOUSE OUT” DEFENSIBLE SPACE CONCEPT

Fire protection starts from the house out. Because embers from wildland fires that land on your home can enter your home through many different routes the most important place to begin preparing defensible space is with your home. Hardening your home from wildfire is fortifying or retrofitting your home to be impervious from heat and embers. This can be your best defense against ember intrusion. After that, move out into the yard starting with the first few feet adjacent to the building out to the wildlands, if needed.

Structure Hardening Tips

1. Use ignition-resistant construction materials.
2. Retrofit suggestions and options:
 - a. Install Class-A roofing materials.
 - b. Install approved baffled attic vents.
 - c. Box in eaves and bird-stop tile roofs.
 - d. Convert from single-paned to double-paned windows.
 - e. Install noncombustible siding.
 - f. Use ignition-resistant deck materials.
 - g. Add a cistern to collect rainwater with connections for Fire Department use.
 - h. Add 2½-inch Fire Department drafting connections to existing pools.
 - i. Consider using nonflammable paints.
3. Use noncombustible fencing materials.
4. Store firewood at least 30' from the structure.
5. Use ignition-resistant outdoor furniture.
6. Seal openings to the outside, like garage and dog doors.
7. Remove combustible materials adjacent to structures.
8. Maintain chimneys and spark arresters.

Wildfires and structure fires produce hot embers that land beyond an oncoming fire. These embers ignite susceptible material and vegetation around and inside your home. The most important place to begin with defensible space is from the **“House Out”**.